

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, EMRG

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

INDONESIA

DOE MEETS WITH PARTIES TO INDONESIA LNG CASE (LOU)

A CONFERENCE OF ALL PETITIONERS ON THE PACIFIC INDONESIA
LNG IMPORT APPLICATION WAS HELD AT DOE ON FEBRUARY 22 TO
ATTEMPT MEET THE CONCERNS OF THE PETITIONERS AND OTHER
INTERESTED PARTIES OVER THE UNCERTAINTIES OF DOE'S
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THIS CASE. USING INFORMAL PRO-
CEDURES, ECONOMIC REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (ERA) CHIEF
DAVID BARDIN LISTENED TO ALL PETITIONERS AND SHARED HIS
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THOUGHTS AND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATIONS ON MEANS TO REACH
FINAL DECISIONS ON THIS LONG-DELAYED CASE. BARDIN INDI-
CATED THAT A DOE ORDER WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY REFLECTING
THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE FEB 22 CONFERENCE. PERTAMINA AND
THE CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANIES PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY,
STRESSING THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS RESOLUTION OF ALL
ISSUES AND FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS WITH ERA ON THE KEY

PRICE ESCALATOR ISSUE. THEY URGED FINAL DECISION ON SITING SOON AFTER THE CALIFORNIA PUC RULING, INDICATING THAT

FURTHER DELIBERATION WOULD BECOME ACADEMIC SHORTLY THEREAFTER. (THIS OF COURSE REFERS TO INDONESIA'S OPTION TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT). BARDIN ENCOURAGED THE PARTIES TO REQUEST A CONFERENCE WITH STAFF ON THE ESCALATION QUESTION AND INDICATED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE SCHEDULED. HE HOWEVER LEFT OPEN THE LOCUS OF THE FINAL DECISION ON SITING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WHILE INDICATING THAT FURTHER HEARINGS ON THE P. CONCEPCION SITE FOR BOTH INDONESIAN AND ALASKAN NATURAL GAS SHOULD BE HELD BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF FERC. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH BARDIN'S ATTITUDE AND THE CARE WITH WHICH HE REVIEWED THE ISSUES. BUT THEY FEAR THE PROCESS HE LAID OUT CANNOT BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS INDICATED BY THE GOI. THEY INDICATED THEY WILL PROBABLY REQUEST THE CONFERENCE ON THE ESCALATOR QUESTION WITH DOE STAFF PRIOR TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH PERTAMINA. THE PERTAMINA WASHINGTON REP IS LEAVING FOR JAKARTA TODAY TO JOIN MARAD TOUR AND TO DISCUSS LNG ISSUES.

THAILAND

FRASER HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE
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(LOU)

CONG FRASER HELD HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN THAILAND (AND THE PHILIPPINES) ON AFTERNOON OF FEB 16. RAMSEY CLARK AND DEP ASST SEC OAKLEY WERE THE ONLY WITNESSES WHO TESTIFIED ON THAILAND. CLARK CONDEMNED THE RTG IN RATHER EMOTIONAL TONES FOR CONTINUED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, REFERRING TO THE TRIAL OF THE THAMMASAT 18 AS A "MORAL OUTRAGE" AND CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SUMMARY JUSTICE PROVISION IN THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND THE CONTINUED USE OF NARC ORDER 22. HE ALSO ACCUSED THE RTG OF WIDESPREAD USE OF TORTURE, ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED THAT TORTURE WAS PRACTICED BEFORE DETAINEES REACHED THE PRISON SYSTEM RATHER THAN IN THE PRISONS THEMSELVES. CLARK URGED THAT ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND BE CUT OFF.

OAKLEY'S INFORMAL STATEMENT (COPIES POUCHED TO BANGKOK) STRESSED THE TREND OF IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE KRIANGSAK GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS CONTINUED USE OF ORDER 22 REMAINED. FRASER ASKED OAKLEY ONLY A FEW QUESTIONS ON THAILAND CONCERNING DUE PROCESS,

THE THAMMASAT 18, AND THE MODERATING INFLUENCE OF KRIANGSAK. HE ASKED NO QUESTIONS ON THE NATURE OF OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND OR ITS ROLE IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS. DURING THE SESSION, MUCH OF THE

SUBCOMMITTEE'S ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE PHILIPPINES RATHER THAN THAILAND.

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE

US SINGAPORE BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY (CONF)

L HAS PREPARED A MEMORANDUM TO MR. COOPER REQUESTING THAT HE DISCUSS WITH TREASURY THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING
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FORWARD RAPIDLY WITH A BILATERAL INVESTMENT PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH SINGAPORE USING THE DRAFT PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

PM LEE ELABORATES ON CONDITIONS TO ESTABLISH REFUGEE FACILITY AT SINGAPORE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT SYDNEY PM LEE INDICATED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT HE HAD CONDITIONALLY OFFERED TO ESTABLISH A REFUGEE FACILITY AT SINGAPORE. LEE OBSERVED THAT "COUNTRY X NEED NOT TELL ME HOW MANY -- NEED NOT TELL THE WORLD -- HOW MANY REFUGEES IT IS PREPARED TO TAKE, IT HAS JUST GOT TO TELL THE UN REFUGEE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND WHISPER IT TO ME... I'D LIKE THEM TO BE ABLE TO LAND IN SINGAPORE, ADJUST AND ADAPT AND SETTLE IN THEIR PERMANENT HOMES WITHIN LESS THAN NINE MONTHS OR NOT MORE THAN A YEAR". EMBASSY SINGAPORE NOTES THAT LEE'S COMMENTS REFLECT WHAT OTHER SINGAPORE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SAYING PRIVATELY. THE NINE MONTHS TO ONE YEAR TRANSIT PERIOD IS A REFINEMENT ON PAST DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE CENTER. EA/TIMBS NOTE: IF TRUE THE NINE MONTHS PROVISION WOULD GIVE US GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED.

MALAYSIA

IMPACT OF KELANTAN STATE ELECTIONS LOOMS IMPORTANT
(SECRET)

ELECTIONS FOR THE KELANTAN STATE ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD ON MARCH 11 HAVE TAKEN ON A GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN NORMALLY WARRANTED SINCE THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT LED BY PM HUSSEIN HAD DECIDED TO RISK ELECTIONS FIRST
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IN KELANTAN AS A MEANS OF "TESTING THE WATERS" BEFORE DETERMINING WHEN TO CALL NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE NATIONAL FRONT IS BEING CHALLENGED BY CONSERVATIVE MUSLIMS IN A NUMBER OF STATES AND REPRESENTS THE GREATEST THREAT TO PM HUSSEIN'S GOVERNMENT. PRIOR TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE KELANTAN STATE ASSEMBLY IN FEBRUARY IT WAS DOMINATED BY THE CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC PARTY (20 SEATS)

WHILE THE UNITED MALAYS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UMNO) HELD 13. IF THE CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC PARTY WINS IN KELANTAN, THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE. THERE IS A DIVISION IN THE HUSSEIN GOVERNMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT UMNO CAN WIN IN KELANTAN. PM HUSSEIN HAS BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT IT CAN, BUT MANY OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THE CLANNISH, CONSERVATIVE, FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIM KELANTANERS WILL REJECT THE DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATED MODERN MALAY UMNO LEADERSHIP IN FAVOR OF TRADITIONAL WAYS. THE CHINESE ARE NOT A FACTOR IN THIS ELECTION.

PM HUSSEIN CUTS SHORT HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA (LOU)

THE K.L. DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH REPORTED ON FEB 20 THAT PM HUSSEIN CUT SHORT HIS AUSTRALIAN VISIT BECAUSE OF A REPORTED THREAT TO KIDNAP HIM IN MELBOURNE. OTHER THAN INDICATING THAT THE KIDNAPPERS HAD COME FROM K.L. TO AUSTRALIA, AND THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM STUDENTS, NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN. VANCE

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